

I will just say here that the health of our Regiment is as good as it has been for some time we have several sick and some of them pretty bad Lafayette Jones is about the worst case we have. I should not be surprised if he did not get along, I have no idea he will ever do us any good anymore, Mr Lydia if it is so that we come up to Kentucky it may be that we may have to come back to Indiana for I hear the Rebels have invaded the State again, and if we do you may look to see me slip of some bawling for if I ever get into the State I am coming home for a few days shure, but still do not flatter yourself too much with the prospect

Dear Lydia as I have nothing interesting I will have to close without filling this sheet and as it is getting late and I am going to send this letter by Capt Branch of passport who has resigned and is coming home I will close, May god Bless and Protect you and my dear little one is my Dear Farewell

To
My Dear Lydia A. Slough

Abm Slough

Camp Rienzi Mississippi
September 7th 1862

My Dear and Loving Wife I again this Sunday Evening Seat Myself to pen you a few more lines in order in the first place to let you know that I am still well and harty, for which I do still thank to our great Creator for his continued favors he still Confers upon me, and I do hope when this reaches you that you may all be found well and harty and be in good spirits as possible, as it is at the present time with me I cannot say that my spirits are as flattering as they were when I wrote to you a few days ago, let me say to you Lydia that many minds are changed and when a person believes ever anxious so we are here in the army about this awful war and anxiously watching at all the news that is going something favorable to us and then again that we are meeting with Reverse I am in hopes you can excuse me for changing my mind and getting down spirit at times and then again get lifted up as it were thinking that in all probability we in a few short months could get to come and see and enjoy our loved ones at home and it does seem to me that there is more than in any other branch of business I ever heard of or at least of any I ever was in my life, that is if you will allow the opinion to call it a branch of business, well enough of foolishness I have no doubt you will have the news in your papers of the

Reverses of our army in Virginia, the news we get here from that quarter now is awful indeed going things looks to me that there is yet something long somewhere but thank fortune we do not find any fault riding on the troops, it looks to me sometime like a running shame that as good troops as we have in the field that come out to render their services to their country and if necessary sacrifice their lives in rendering that service, that they have to be tampered with as though there was nothing more at stake than a new school boy game, I believe I could fill my sheet with such but just now I think it unnecessary, I want you to keep in good heart and rest assured that I feel as though I am doing my duty and my whole duty, it is true Lydia I would like the best in the world to see you all and be with you, but under the present circumstances I am confident it could not be safely to stay at home when my country needs my services as it does at this time, although I receive some of my services in a disheartened emotional I still hope and pray for the better and hope that I may be able to return to you and live in the enjoyment of you and my children but I want to do so when we can say that we have a government to live in, do no more of this, you will see from the heading of this letter that we have again moved we are now at the little town where we was just two months ago, we got marching orders yesterday and struck tents at dark and got here last night just at midnight a distance of 50 miles so you can see how fast we travel unless we are on a forced march when we make things git, it is not the opinion of any of us that we are going to stay here but a few days the troops here are leaving and going north, I should not be surprised the next time you

heard from me you would hear of me being in Kentucky or on the road for I intend to try to keep you safe from all the time of which I am and know am getting along indeed I can possibly have no objections if it is the situation to send us to Kentucky, for it is where I wanted to go in the first and then again I want us to go where we can do some good so I see no prospect of us doing any thing here, Dear Lydia your letter of the 29th of May is the last I have got and this is true I have to go there I have written to you since I looked Barnett for some today but it did not come but expect it tomorrow, I feel anxious to hear from Kate and the rest of the boys of the 31st Regiment as they have been in a battle and got awfully cut up, I shall expect to hear of some of them being either killed or wounded and should better be told let I know it will nearly kill Selly, I got a letter from her a few days ago and I can see very plain from her letter she is awfully down hearted, I am afraid she throws some blame on me for later volunteering as she stated in her letter that he got a letter from me at Station and come home and set his dinner and went right off and volunteered if such is the case that she blames me tell her that I do not know that I wrote any thing intentional to induce him to volunteer and if I had I should have tried to have got him to come into our company as I knew there was a good chance for him to have some so, I did not have room in my letter to Selly, to apologise notwithstanding I think he had no good right and as good a chance to go as I had and I do not suppose he had a wife that loved him any better than I hope, and then we cannot think but there are thousands of cases equal to any, so turn a page

Camp Rienzi Mississippi

September 7th 1862

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This Sunday Evening Seat Myself to pen you a few
More lines in order in the first place to let you know
that I am Still well and harty, for which I do Still

Return Thanks to our great creator for his continued favors
he Still confers upon me, and I do hope when this
Reaches you that you May all be found well and harty
and be in good Spirits as posible, as it is at the presant
time with Me I cannot Say that My spirits are as flattering
as they were when I wrote to you a few days ago, let me
say to you Lydia That Mans Mind is Changible and when
a person becoms over anxious as we are here in the army
about this awful war and anxiously ketching at all the
news that is going, Sometimes favorable to us and then again
that we are meeting with Reverces I am in hopes you can
Excuse me for Changing my mind and getting down Spiriti[d]
at times and then again get lifted up as it were Thinking
that in all probability we in a few Short months could get
to come and See and Enjoy our loved ones at home
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heard from me you would hear of me being in Kentucky
or on the Road for I Intend to try to keep you Informed all
the time of where I am and how I am getting along Indeed I
can possible have not objections if it is the Intention to send us to
Kentucky for it is where I wanted to go in the Start and then
again I want us to go where we can do Some good as I see
no prospect of us doing any thing here, Dear Lydia your letter
of the 29th of Aug is the last I have got and this is two I have
o yes three I have written to you since I looked Earnest for one
today but it did not come but Expect it tomorrow, I feel anxious
to hear from Nate and the rest of the Boys of the [71st?] Regiment
as they have been in a battle and got awfully cut up, I Shal
Expect to hear of Some of them being Either killed or wounded
and Should Either be Nates lot I know it will nearly kill
Dolly I got a letter from her a few daysago and I can see very
plain from her letter She is awfully down harted, I am afraid
She throwes Some blame on me for Nate Volunteering as She
Stated in her letter that he got a letter from me at Stocton and
come home and Eat his dinner and went rite off and Volunteered
if Such is the case that She blames me tell her that I do not know
that I wrote any thing Intentional to Induce him to volunteer and
if I had I should have tried to have got him to come into our
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so, I did not have Room in my letter to Dolly to apologize
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Abrm Slough

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